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**prompt** [Audio Help](#) [prompt] [Pronunciation Key](#) - [Show IPA Pronunciation](#) *adjective, -er, -est, verb, noun*

*-adjective*

- 1. done, performed, delivered, etc., at once or without delay: *a prompt reply.*
- 2. ready in action; quick to act as occasion demands.
- 3. quick or alert: *prompt to take offense.*

4. [PUNCTUAL.](#)

*-verb (used with object)*

- 5. to move or induce to action: *What prompted you to say that?*
- 6. to occasion or incite; inspire: *What prompted his resignation?*
- 7. to assist (a person speaking) by suggesting something to be said.

- 8. *Theater.* to supply (an actor, singer, etc.) from offstage with a missed cue or forgotten line.

*-verb (used without object)*

- 9. *Theater.* to supply forgotten lines, lyrics, or the like to an actor, singer, etc.

*-noun*

- 10. *Commerce.*
  - a. a limit of time given for payment for merchandise purchased, the limit being stated on a note of reminder (**prompt note**).
  - b. the contract setting the time limit.
- 11. the act of prompting.
- 12. something serving to suggest or remind.
- 13. *Computers.* a message or symbol from a computer system to a user, generally appearing on a display screen, requesting more information or indicating that the system is ready for user instructions.

*-Idiom*

- 14. **take a prompt**, (in acting) to move or speak in response to a cue.

[Origin: 1300-50; (v.) ME < ML *prōmptāre* to incite, L: to distribute, freq. of *prōmere* to bring out, equiv. to *prō-* [PRO-](#)<sup>1</sup> + (*e*)*mere* to take, buy; (adj.) late ME < L *promptus* ready, prompt, special use of ptp. of *prōmere*]

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promptly, *adverb*  
promptness, *noun*

—*Synonyms* 5. urge, spur, instigate, impel.

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adj. **prompt·er, prompt·est**

1. Being on time; punctual.
2. Carried out or performed without delay: *a prompt reply*.

tr.v. **prompt·ed, prompt·ing, prompts**

1. To move to act; spur; incite: *A noise prompted the guard to go back and investigate*.
2. To give rise to; inspire: *The accident prompted a review of school safety policy*.
3. To assist with a reminder; remind.
4. To assist (an actor or reciter) by providing the next words of a forgotten passage; cue.

n.

- a. The act of prompting or giving a cue.
  - b. A reminder or cue.
  - c. A prompt note.
  - d. The time limit stipulated in a prompt note.
2. *Computer Science* A symbol that appears on a monitor to indicate that the computer is ready to receive input.
  3. *Business*
    - a. A prompt note.
    - b. The time limit stipulated in a prompt note.

[Middle English, *ready*, from Old French, from Latin *prŏmptus*, from past participle of *prŏmere*, *to bring forth*: *prŏ-*, *forth*; see *pro-*<sup>1</sup> + *emere*, *to take, obtain*; see *em-* in Indo-European roots.]

**prompt'er** *n.*, **prompt'ti·tude'** (prŏmp'tī-tōōd', -tyōōd'), **prompt'ness** (prŏmpt'nīs) *n.*, **prompt'ly** *adv.*

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prompt (v.)

c.1340, from O.Fr. *prompt* (1219), from L. *promptus* "brought forth, at hand, ready, quick," prop. pp. of *promere* "to bring forth," from *pro-* "forward" + *emere* "to take" (see [exempt](#)). Theatrical sense of "to assist a speaker with lines" is first recorded 1428. The adj. is first recorded 1432.

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prompt

How many  
are drawn

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ADVERTI

1. according to schedule or without delay; on time; "the train is prompt"
2. ready and willing or quick to act; "she is always prompt to help her friends";
3. performed with little or no delay; "an immediate reply to my letter"; "a prompt reply"; "was quick to respond"; "a straightaway denial" [syn: [immediate](#)]

#### noun

1. a cue given to a performer (usually the beginning of the next line to be spoken); "the audience could hear his prompting"
2. (computer science) a symbol that appears on the computer screen to indicate that the computer is ready to receive a command

#### verb

1. give an incentive for action; "This moved me to sacrifice my career" [syn: [motivate](#)]
2. serve as the inciting cause of; "She prompted me to call my relatives"
3. assist (somebody acting or reciting) by suggesting the next words of something forgotten or imperfectly learned

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#### prompt [\[prompt\]](#) *adjective*

acting, or happening, without delay or punctually

Example: *a prompt reply; I'm surprised that she's late. She's usually so prompt.*

*Arabic:* سَرِيع، فَوْرِي

*Chinese (Simplified):* 迅速的

*Chinese (Traditional):* 迅速的

*Czech:* okamžitý; včasný

*Danish:* hurtig; præcis

*Dutch:* prompt

*Estonian:* kiire, täpne

*Finnish:* nopea, täsmällinen

*French:* prompt, ponctuel

*German:* She's usually so prompt.prompt

*Greek:* γρήγορος, άμεσος, ακριβής

*Hungarian:* gyors; azonnali

*Icelandic:* skjótur; stundvís

*Indonesian:* seketika

*Japanese:* そくごの

*Korean:* 신속한, 시간을 엄수하는

*Latvian:* precīzs; tūlītējs

*Lithuanian:* greitas, neatidėliotinas, punktualus

*Norwegian:* omgående, presis, punktlig

*Polish:* natychmiastowy, punktualny

*Portuguese (Brazil):* pronto, pontual

*Portuguese (Portugal):* pontual

*Romanian:* prompt, punctual

*Russian:* быстрый; точный

*Slovak:* pohotový, promptný

*Slovenian:* hiter

*Spanish:* pronto, inmediato; puntual

*Swedish:* snabb, skyndsam, punktlig

*Turkish:* ivedi, derhal yapılan; dakik zamanında gelen

#### prompt<sup>1</sup> [\[prompt\]](#) *verb*

to persuade to do something

Example: *What prompted you to say that?*

*Arabic:* يُقْنَع، يُقْنَر، يَجْعَل

*Chinese (Simplified):* 促使

*Chinese (Traditional):* 促使

*Czech:* přimět

*Danish:* tilskynde

*Dutch:* bewegen tot

*Estonian:* ajendama

*Finnish:* saada tekemään

*French:* pousser à

*German:* antreiben

*Greek:* παραινών, υπαγορεύω, πείθω

*Hungarian:* buzdít, késztet

*Icelandic:* knýja til

*Indonesian:* mendorong

*Japanese:* ~させる

*Korean:* 설득하다, 재촉하다

*Latvian:* mudināt; likt

*Lithuanian:* (pa)skatinti

*Norwegian:* bevege, \*overtale til

*Polish:* skłonić

*Portuguese (Brazil):* induzir, mover

*Portuguese (Portugal):* levar

*Romanian:* a face

*Russian:* побуждать

*Slovak:* prinútiť

*Slovenian:* spodbosti

*Spanish:* mover, incitar, provocar

*Swedish:* driva, förmå

*Turkish:* sevk etmek, yaptırmak

prompt<sup>2</sup> [prompt] *verb*

to remind (especially an actor) of the words that he is to say  
Example: *Several actors forgot their words and had to be prompted.*

*Arabic:* يُنقِّر المُمثِّل بالكلمات

*Korean:* (배우에게) 대사를 (무대 뒤에서) 알려주다

*Latvian:* suflēt; teikt priekšā

*Lithuanian:* sufleruoti

*Norwegian:* sufflere

*Polish:* suflować

*Portuguese (Brazil):* soprar

*Portuguese (Portugal):* lembrar

*Romanian:* a sufla

*Russian:* подсказывать, суфлировать

*Slovak:* našepkávať

*Slovenian:* prišepetavati

*Spanish:* apuntar

*Swedish:* sufflera

*Turkish:* sufle etmek

*Chinese (Simplified):* 为 [ 演员 ] 提白

*Chinese (Traditional):* 為 [ 演員 ] 提白

*Czech:* napovídat

*Danish:* sufflere

*Dutch:* souffleren

*Estonian:* ette ütlemä

*Finnish:* kuiskata

*French:* souffler

*German:* soufflieren

*Greek:* υπενθυμιζω, υπαγορεύω

*Hungarian:* súg

*Icelandic:* hvísla, gefa stikkorð

*Indonesian:* mengingatkan kata-kata yang harus diucapkan kepada seorang aktor

*Japanese:* せりふ付けをする

See also: [at one/two o'clock prompt](#), [promptly](#)

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**Prompt**

Ex`pe\*di"tious\, a. Possessed of, or characterized by, expedition, or efficiency and rapidity in action; performed with, or acting with, expedition; quick; having celerity; speedily; as, an expeditious march or messenger. -- [Ex`pe\\*di"tious\\*ly](#), adv. -- [Ex`pe\\*di"tious\\*ness](#), n.

Syn: Prompt; ready; speedy; alert. See [Prompt](#).  
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**Prompt**

Im\*promp"tu\, adv. or a. [F. impromptu, fr. L. in promptu in readiness, at hand; in in + promptus visibility, readiness, from promptus visible, ready. See [Prompt](#).] Offhand; without previous study; extemporaneous; extempore; as, an impromptu verse.  
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**Prompt**

Promt\ (?; 215), a. [Compar. [Prompter](#); superl. [Promptest](#).] [F. prompt, L. promptus, properly, brought forth (to light or view), hence, visible, evident, at hand, ready, quick, -- p. p. of promere to take or bring forth; pro forth + emere to take. See [Redeem](#). ]

1. Ready and quick to act as occasion demands; meeting requirements readily; not slow, dilatory, or hesitating in decision or action; responding on the instant; immediate; as, prompt in obedience or compliance; -- said of persons.

Very discerning and prompt in giving orders. --Clarendon.

Tell him I am prompt To lay my crown at's feet. --Shak.

Any you, perhaps, too prompt in your replies. --Dryden.

2. Done or rendered quickly, readily, or immediately; given without delay or hesitation; -- said of conduct; as, prompt assistance

When Washington heard the voice of his country in distress, his obedience was prompt. --Ames.

3. Easy; unobstructed. [Obs.]

The reception of the light into the body of the building was very prompt. --Sir H. Wotton.

Syn: Ready; expeditious; quick; agile; alert; brisk; nimble.

Usage: [Prompt](#), [Ready](#), [Expeditious](#). One who is ready is prepared to act at the moment. One who is prompt acts at the moment. One who is expeditious carries through an undertaking with constant promptness.

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**Prompt**

Prompt\, n. (Com.) A limit of time given for payment of an account for produce purchased, this limit varying with different goods. See [Prompt-note](#).

To cover any probable difference of price which might arise before the expiration of the prompt, which for this article [tea] is three months. --J. S. Mill.

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**Prompt**

Prompt\, v. t. [imp. & p. p. [Prompted](#); p. pr. & vb. n. [Prompting](#).]

1. To assist or induce the action of; to move to action; to instigate; to incite.

God first . . . prompted on the infirmities of the infant world by temporal prosperity. --Jer. Taylor.

2. To suggest; to dictate.

And whispering angles prompt her golden dreams. --Pope.

3. To remind, as an actor or an orator, of words or topics forgotten.

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**Prompt**

Prompt"i\*tude\, n. [F., fr. L. promptitudo. See [Prompt](#), a.] The quality of being prompt; quickness of decision and action when occasion demands; alacrity; as, promptitude in obedience.

Men of action, of promptitude, and of courage. --I. Taylor.

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**Prompt**

Prompt"tu\*a\*ry\, n. [L. promptuarium, fr. promptuarius belonging to distribution, distributing: cf, F. promptuaire. See [Prompt](#), a.] That from which supplies are drawn; a storehouse; a magazine; a repository. --Woodward.

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**Prompt**

Prompt"ture\ (?; 135), n. [See [Prompt](#), a.] Suggestion; incitement; prompting. [R.] --Shak. Coleridge.

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**Prompt**

arranged, and possibly to E. ride, as meaning originally, prepared for riding. Cf. [Array](#), 1st [Curry](#).]

1. Prepared for what one is about to do or experience; equipped or supplied with what is needed for some act or event; prepared for immediate movement or action; as, the troops are ready to march; ready for the journey. "When she redy was." --Chaucer.

2. Fitted or arranged for immediate use; causing no delay for lack of being prepared or furnished. "Dinner was ready." --Fielding.

My oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. --Matt. xxii. 4.

3. Prepared in mind or disposition; not reluctant; willing; free; inclined; disposed.

I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem, for the name of the Lord Jesus. --Acts xxi. 13.

If need be, I am ready to forego And quit. --Milton.

4. Not slow or hesitating; quick in action or perception of any kind; dexterous; prompt; easy; expert; as, a ready apprehension; ready wit; a ready writer or workman. "Ready in devising expedients." --Macaulay.

Gurth, whose temper was ready, through surly. --Sir W. Scott.

5. Offering itself at once; at hand; opportune; convenient; near; easy. "The readiest way." --Milton.

A sapling pine he wrenched from out the ground, The readiest weapon that his fury found. --Dryden.

6. On the point; about; on the brink; near; -- with a following infinitive.

My heart is ready to crack. --Shak.

7. (Mil.) A word of command, or a position, in the manual of arms, at which the piece is cocked and held in position to execute promptly the next command, which is, aim.

[All ready](#), ready in every particular; wholly equipped or prepared. "[I] am all redy at your hest." --Chaucer.

[Ready money](#), means of immediate payment; cash. "'Tis all the ready money fate can give." --Cowley.

[Ready reckoner](#), a book of tables for facilitating computations, as of interest, prices, etc.

[To make ready](#), to make preparation; to get in readiness.

Syn: Prompt; expeditious; speedy; unhesitating; dexterous; apt; skilful; handy; expert; facile; easy; opportune; fitted; prepared; disposed; willing; free; cheerful. See [Prompt](#).

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**Prompt**  
Re\*deem"\ (r?'d?m"), v. t. [imp. & p. p. [Redeemed](#). (-d?md"); p. pr. & vb. n. [Redeeming](#).] [F. r[e]dimer, L. redimere; pref. red-, re- + emere, emptum, to buy, originally, to take, cf. OIr. em (in comp.), Lith. imti. Cf. [Assume](#), [Consume](#), [Exempt](#), [Premium](#), [Prompt](#), [Ransom](#).]

1. To purchase back; to regain possession of by payment of a stipulated price; to repurchase.

If a man sell a dwelling house in a walled city, then he may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold. --Lev. xxv. 29.

2. Hence, specifically: (a) (Law) To recall, as an estate, or to regain, as mortgaged property, by paying what may be due by force of the mortgage. (b) (Com.) To regain by performing the obligation or condition stated; to discharge the obligation mentioned in, as a promissory note, bond, or other evidence of debt; as, to redeem bank notes with coin.

3. To ransom, liberate, or rescue from captivity or bondage, or from any obligation or liability to suffer or to be forfeited, by paying a price or ransom; to ransom; to rescue; to recover; as, to redeem a captive, a pledge, and the like.

Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles. --Ps. xxv. 22.

The Almighty from the grave Hath me redeemed. --Sandys.

4. (Theol.) Hence, to rescue and deliver from the bondage of sin and the penalties of God's violated law.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us. --Gal. iii. 13.

5. To make good by performing fully; to fulfill; as, to redeem one's promises.

6. To pay the penalty of; to make amends for; to serve as an equivalent or offset for; to atone for; to compensate; as, to redeem an error.

Which of ye will be mortal, to redeem Man's mortal crime? --Milton.

It is a chance which does redeem all sorrows. --Shak.

[To redeem the time](#), to make the best use of it.

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